ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/1

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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Working Group on Development of the Convention

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 11–13 May 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 11 May 2015*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Workplan and organization of work for 2015–2016.
3. Amendment to the Convention.

* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register by 1 April 2015 using the new electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/logon.faces;jsessionid=AEF92287B72EC4390504530F98B5C1E3?meeting_name=TEIA:%205th%20Working%20Group%20on%20Development. The registration code for this meeting is 70292. For assistance, please see the instructions on the web page for the meeting (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36736#/) or contact the secretariat by e-mail (teia.conv@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the meeting and related information will be made available on the meeting web page listed above. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their own copies of any meeting documentation they will require.

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4. Accession by Member States of the United Nations from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region.

5. Guidance by the Conference of the Parties:

   (a) Provisions related to land-use planning;

   (b) Clarifying the scope of mutual assistance;

   (c) Provisions on the review of compliance.

6. Review of decisions taken and closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda set out in the present document was prepared by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) in agreement with the Chair of the Working Group on Development of the Convention (Working Group on Development).

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair of the Working Group will open the fifth meeting and invite members of the Working Group to adopt the agenda for the meeting, as set out in the present document.[1]

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/1)

2. Workplan and organization of work for 2015–2016

3. The Chair of the Working Group will recall the Working Group's mandate received from the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014) and propose a way forward to prepare the requested amendments to the Convention and guidance by the Conference of the Parties based on the proposed organization of work set out in document ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/3.

4. The Working Group on Development is expected to discuss and agree on its organization of work for the period up to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in autumn 2016, including the number of its meetings in the biennium 2015–2016, and the possible support to be provided by a small group of legal experts and another small group of experts on land-use planning.

5. The Working Group is also expected to discuss and adopt its workplan for the period 2015–2016 and the terms of reference for the two expert groups, as contained in the document ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/3.

[1] All documentation for the session (official and informal documents) will be made available on the web page for the meeting (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36736#/).

Documentation

Proposed workplan and organization of work for the Working Group on the Development of the Convention for 2015–2016 (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/3)

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eighth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/30)

3. Amendment to the Convention

6. At its eighth meeting the Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group to prepare a draft amendment to the Convention relating to articles 1 (definitions), 9 (information to, and participation of the public), 18 (Conference of the Parties) and 29 (ratification, acceptance, approval and accession), considering also related provisions of and annexes to the Convention, for review and adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Working Group was also requested to prepare draft text opening the Convention for accession by Member States of the United Nations beyond the ECE region, as part of the above amendment.

7. The Chair will invite the Working Group to consider draft text for the amendment to the Convention, prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with a legal expert.

8. The Working Group will be expected to discuss the draft text, to provide comments and to agree on the next steps.

Documentation

Options for an amendment to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/4)

Proposed amendments and prioritization of guidance by the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/9)

Report of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2014/3)

4. Accession by Member States of the United Nations from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

9. The Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting requested the Working Group to continue thoroughly considering all aspects related to the opening of the Convention with regard to the potential benefits and challenges, including possible budgetary implications, and to present the outcome of its considerations to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. The Working Group will be invited to continue its discussions on this issue, based on information provided by the secretariat and contained in official background documents prepared for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/6) and the twentieth session of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/2014/6).

Documentation

Opening of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for accession by United Nations Member States beyond the Economic Commission for Europe region: Considerations and options with regard to a possible amendment (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/6)

Opening of the environmental instruments of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and their promotion beyond the region (ECE/CEP/2014/6)

5. Guidance by the Conference of the Parties

11. The Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting decided that guidance on selected provisions of the Convention should be developed by the Convention's subsidiary bodies, for review and adoption at the Conference of the Parties at its ninth or, alternatively, tenth meeting.

(a) Provisions related to land-use planning (art. 7)

12. The Working Group on Development was requested to review a draft guidance document on land-use planning to be drawn up with external expertise. The European Union/European Investment Bank stated at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that it would act as lead organization for the preparation of this document by a consultant, in cooperation with the secretariats of the Industrial Accidents Convention, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. Cooperation with the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management was also envisaged in the implementation of this activity.

13. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about planned activities for the development of the draft guidance document on land-use planning by a consultant, based on a background document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/5). The Working Group will be invited to take note of the information provided.

Documentation

Guidance document on safety and land-use planning (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2015/5)

(b) Clarifying the scope of mutual assistance (art. 12)

14. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Working Group to prepare a draft decision to clarify the scope of mutual assistance set out in article 12 of the Convention, outlining to what extent mutual assistance referred to any industrial accident or to industrial accidents with transboundary effects only, for review and possible adoption at its ninth meeting.

15. The Working Group will be invited to continue its exchange of views on the scope of mutual assistance and to agree on next steps for the preparation of guidance by the Conference of the Parties. To this end, the Working Group might wish to consider involving the small group of legal experts, proposed to be established by the Working Group.

Documentation

Updated background paper on possible amendments to the Convention (informal document WG.1–2014.Inf.1)

Report of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on the Development of the Convention (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2014/3)

(c) Provisions on the review of compliance (art. 23)

16. The Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Development, in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation, to consider the introduction of a compliance mechanism and to prepare a possible draft decision for review and possible

adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, with due regard to the mandate and functioning of the Working Group on Implementation.

17. The Chair of the Working Group on Implementation will provide information on the preliminary discussions held on this matter. The Working Group on Development will be invited to share its views on the introduction of a compliance mechanism and to determine the way forward.

Documentation

Approaches to compliance mechanisms under United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements: an overview (ECE/CP.TEIA/2014/10)

6. Review of decisions taken and closure of the meeting

18. The Chair of the Working Group will summarize the decisions taken, before closing the meeting no later than 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 May 2015.